

**Introduced by Senator Corbett**

February 18, 2014

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An act to add Section 60605.84 to the Education Code, relating to pupil curriculum.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 1057, as introduced, Corbett. Pupil curriculum: history-social science content standards.

Existing law provides for the adoption and modification of academic content standards by the State Board of Education in the subjects of language arts and mathematics in accordance with specified procedures.

This bill would require the state board to adopt history-social science standards in accordance with specified procedures. The bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to convene a diversity advisory group, as specified, and, with input from the diversity advisory group, would require the Superintendent, on or before March 30, 2016, to recommend history-social science content standards to the state board. The bill would require the state board to adopt, reject, or modify the history-social science content standards on or before July 30, 2016. The bill would require the Superintendent and the state board, by October 1, 2016, to report certain information to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislature. The bill would express legislative findings and declarations relating to history-social science content standards.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3     (a) In contrast to other subject areas, the state's 16-year-old  
4 history-social science content standards were developed in 1998  
5 and have failed to keep up with modern research and scholarship.

6     (b) There is nothing in current law that requires history-social  
7 science content standards to be reviewed and updated.

8     (c) California has long been home to many diverse cultures. As  
9 this diversity has grown, there is a greater need than ever before  
10 for understanding the foundational ideas and philosophy of our  
11 country and the world.

12     (d) California's current K–12 history-social science textbooks  
13 contain outdated and inaccurate information, and reflect negatively  
14 on members of several groups, in violation of existing law.  
15 Hinduism, for instance, is portrayed in an inequitable manner, and  
16 Hindus are depicted negatively and as implicitly inferior to other  
17 religious groups.

18     (e) Existing law prohibits the State Board of Education from  
19 adopting any instructional materials for use in schools that contain  
20 any matter reflecting adversely upon persons on the basis of race  
21 or ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, nationality, or sexual  
22 orientation.

23     (f) The history-social science content standards must therefore  
24 be rectified to address concerns of accuracy, rigorous scholarship,  
25 equality, diversity, religious and cultural sensitivity, and adherence  
26 to existing law. Furthermore, the standards should be updated to  
27 ensure that they are consistent with changes to other subjects in  
28 California's education system.

29     (g) It is the intent of the Legislature that the revised K–12  
30 history-social science content standards must be equitable in their  
31 coverage and depiction of any world religion, ethnicity, race,  
32 culture, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, or disability status  
33 and that no group shall be portrayed negatively or as inferior based  
34 on any of these characteristics.

35     (h) It is the intent of the Legislature that the process to update  
36 the K–12 history-social science content standards be fair,  
37 transparent, and inclusive.

1 (i) It is the intent of the Legislature to establish a schedule and  
2 process for the review and revision, as necessary, of the state's  
3 history-social science content standards.

4 SEC. 2. Section 60605.84 is added to the Education Code,  
5 immediately following Section 60605.8, to read:

6 60605.84. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, the state board  
7 shall adopt history-social science content standards pursuant to  
8 the following requirements:

9 (1) The Superintendent, in consultation with the state board,  
10 shall convene a diversity advisory group. The Superintendent shall  
11 ensure that the members of the diversity advisory group include,  
12 but are not limited to, individuals who are scholars in major  
13 religious, ethnic, racial, and cultural groups, individuals who  
14 represent the perspectives of all genders, sexual orientations, and  
15 disability status, as well as individuals who are elementary and  
16 secondary history-social science teachers, schoolsite principals,  
17 school district or county office of education administrators, and  
18 university professors. The Superintendent, with input from the  
19 diversity advisory group, shall recommend history-social science  
20 content standards for adoption to the state board.

21 (2) The Superintendent shall hold a minimum of two public  
22 meetings pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article  
23 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of  
24 Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code) in order for the  
25 public to provide input on the history-social science content  
26 standards that would be recommended pursuant to paragraph (1).

27 (3) The Superintendent shall present the recommended  
28 history-social science content standards to the state board on or  
29 before March 30, 2016.

30 (4) On or before July 30, 2016, the state board shall adopt, reject,  
31 or modify the history-social science content standards presented  
32 by the Superintendent.

33 (5) If the state board modifies the history-social science content  
34 standards presented by the Superintendent, the state board shall  
35 provide written reasons for its modifications in a public meeting.  
36 The state board shall adopt its modifications to the history-social  
37 science content standards at a subsequent public meeting held no  
38 later than July 30, 2016. The public meetings required by this  
39 paragraph shall be held pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open  
40 Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of

1 Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government  
2 Code).

3 (b) (1) On or before October 1, 2016, the Superintendent and  
4 the state board shall present to the Governor and the appropriate  
5 policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature a schedule and  
6 implementation plan for integrating the history-social science  
7 content standards adopted pursuant to this section into the state  
8 educational system.

9 (2) The requirement for submitting the report required pursuant  
10 to this subdivision is inoperative on October 1, 2020, pursuant to  
11 Section 10231.5 of the Government Code.